

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06286 300709Z
ACTION SMI-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 OES-07 ABF-01 FS-01 /022 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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DEPT PASS SMITHSONIAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OSCI, TPHY, PK
SUBJECT: SMI/SFCP - "GEODYNAMIC EVOLUTION OF PAKISTAN: DEEP SEISMIC
STUDIES IN BALUCHISTAN AND OTHER SELECTED REGIONS". PRINCIPAL
INVESTIGATORS MEYER AND PENNINGTON

REF: STATE 160444, ISLAMABAD 5624

1. SUBJECT PROJECT DISCUSSED WITH MR. KEES DEJONG DURING
HIS VISIT JUNE 21. DEJONG REPORTED THAT ABUL FARAH OF
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF PAKISTAN (GSP) HAS TOLD HIM INFORMALLY
THAT PROJECT HAS BEEN APPROVED. WE EXPLAINED TO DEJONG THAT
AS FAR AS THE GSP PROJECT IS CONCERNED THE EMBASSY HAS NEVER
DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF GOP APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT. PLS NOTE
THAT THIS APPROVAL APPLIED TO THE PROJECT, NOT TO THE FUNDING
OF THE PROJECT. WHEN IT COMES TO THE QUESTION OF USING PL-480
US-USES RUPEE FUNDS FOR THIS PROJECT, THE EMBASSY HAS TO
CONSIDER THE EXISTENCE OF THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION, GOP,
FINAL AND ACTUAL APPROVAL OF A PROJECT AGREEMENT OR GRANT
LETTER AUTHORIZING US COLLABORATIVE EFFORT. THIS
DOCUMENT DOES NOT EXIST. DESPITE DEJONG'S ASSURANCES TO
THE CONTRARY, EMBASSY HAS NO INDICATION FROM GOP THAT
PROJECT IS APPROVED. AS THESE ACTIVITIES ARE NOT
OFFICIALLY APPROVED BY THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION,
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THESE ACTIVITIES COULD BE QUESTIONED AS UNAUTHORIZED AND
MAY LEAD TO AN EMBARRASSING SITUATION. RESPONSIBLE
OFFICER AT EAD, MR. S.M.A. NAQVI, TOLD EMBOFF THAT PROJECT
WAS UNDER REVIEW BY MINISTRY OF FINANCE WHICH WAS WAITING
FOR EXPLANATIONS FROM MINISTRY OF FUEL, POWER AND NATURAL
RESOURCES. HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE APPROVED BY MID-JULY.

2. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT TRAVEL BY PENNINGTON AT THIS TIME
WOULD EXPEDITE THE APPROVAL PROCESS. JUDGING FROM RECENT EXPERIENCE IN

OTHER AREAS, HIS VISIT MIGHT HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT. GOP AGENCIES
ARE ACUTELY SENSITIVE TO PRESSURE FROM OUTSIDE ELEMENTS.

3. MOREOVER, POLITICAL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN AT THE
MOMENT IS UNSETTLED; WE ARE NOT SURE HOW SOON THE GOP
WILL ACT ON THE PROPOSAL BUT LONG DELAYS ARE COMMON AS
COUNTRY AWAITS OUTCOME OF SUPREME COURT APPEAL OF
FORMER PRIMIN ON MURDER/CONSPIRACY CONVICTION, LOOKS
ANXIOUSLY AT ITS DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION, AND
WORRIES AS WELL ABOUT CHANGES WHICH IT FEARS WILL
ADVERSELY AFFECT ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. HUMMEL

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